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LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter from H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to Your Excellency, on the alarming situation close to the north-western borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has reached new and dangerous dimensions following recent Armenian attacks against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador
Charge d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 29 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The developments close to the north-western borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran have entered a new and critical stage with the ongoing offensives by the Armenian forces against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Owing to the expansion of the war deep inside Azerbaijani territory, the sounds of artillery can be heard at the Iranian borders. Large groups of displaced Azeri populations have fled to surrounding areas and the human and material tolls are mounting.

Your Excellency is well aware that as a neighbour to both the Azerbaijani Republic and the Republic of Armenia, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of good-neighbourly relations with both States and in accordance with the principle of neutrality, initiated an extended effort in March 1992 aimed at resolving the dispute peacefully. In spite of positive achievements such as the establishment of a temporary cease-fire and the signing of the Tehran peace agreement, the mediation by the Islamic Republic of Iran was not supported by certain States, and following the inadequate engagement of the United Nations to adopt practical measures to guarantee continued respect for the cease-fire, the war broke out again and escalated when Armenians attacked Lachin in Azerbaijani territory.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has supported all efforts aimed at restoring peace and stability in the Caucasus. However, the latest Armenian offensives against Azerbaijani territory have endangered the prospects of conciliation and the restoration of peace, thus creating a critical condition for all of the States in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has repeatedly announced, condemns all Armenian attacks against the territory of Azerbaijan and expresses concern over the continuation of such attacks, which have the potential of fanning the flames of war to engulf the entire region. In the light of our experience in mediation in the area and in view of our knowledge of the complex issues involved, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that in order to curb the spread of the war and achieve a just solution it is essential that the United Nations take immediate and effective measures to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) and decisively compel the aggressive forces to accept a cease-fire and to withdraw to the internationally recognized borders. Only under such circumstances is it possible to return peace and security to the area and thus pave the way for the resumption of the economic construction of these two newly independent States and for the welfare and prosperity of the oppressed Azeri and Armenian nations who have had a long history of peaceful coexistence.

Relying on the good relations with the countries in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared, as in the past, to participate in and cooperate with the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Foreign Minister of the
Islamic Republic of Iran